

State keeps clerk, voting equipment in limbo

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Remember the 2000 Presidential election?
Hanging, dimpled and pregnant chads.

In an effort to prevent another Florida debacle, in 2002 the United States Congress approved the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). This act required all states to meet certain technology and election administration requirements.

"They were trying to make sure that (the election mess in) Florida would never happen again," said Linda Choate, Romulus city clerk. "It has been a very complicat-

ed process."

In accordance with HAVA, Michigan organized a 30-member advisory committee to devise a state plan to improve voting.

Currently there are 2,438 country and local election officials throughout the state using a handful of different equipment for elections. During the 2002 elections, one-third of the communities in the state were still using outdated lever style machines, punch card systems (like Florida in 2000) and ancient paper ballots.

"This was the big problem," said Choate. "Everyone is using a different system and nothing was centralized. So, they decided that everything within a county had to be

uniform."

According to Choate, the state then said that it would announce three vendors who manufacture optical scan voting systems, from which the counties could chose to upgrade their systems.

Romulus has been using Accuvote, an optical scan system for years.

"If Wayne County decided to go with the Accuvote system, I was under the impression that all I would have to do is update our current system for a cost of about \$90,000," said Choate. "This would not have been that big

See **Voting**, page 3



Thirty-two students in the Romulus Boys and Girls Club received leadership awards at the annual awards night at Wick Elementary School. Many school and community leaders were on hand to congratulate the recipients.

Club recognizes student leaders

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Leadership is a quality that is unique and something that should be rewarded, according to Frank Rigger, director of the Romulus Boys and Girls Club.

That's why 32 Romulus students and one member of the Romulus community were recognized for their contributions to the club at the annual Leadership Awards ceremony this month.

"We believe that it is crucial that these kids be recognized for all the good they do in the club day after day," said Rigger. "They are always helpful and looking for things they can do to make the club better."

Rigger explained that the 32 students chosen from more than 600 must possess certain qualities that are essential to leadership.

"The leadership awards are given to students for recognition of outstanding development demonstrated through participation, citizenship, coop-

eration, sportsmanship, progress, achievement and service to the community," he said. "It is a long list, but not for these kids that were honored."

Half of the students honored are at the Wick Elementary location and the other half from the Merriman Elementary location of the Boys and Girls Club after school program, which is the heart of the Romulus club.

The after school program operates from the time school gets out until 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students in the Romulus schools are bused to either Wick Elementary or Merriman Elementary each day.

The kids are kept busy with many different activities, including an hour and a half homework time right after school.

"We have help for the students with their homework," said Rigger. "We bring in students from the high school to be aides in the program."

After homework is done, the

fun begins. Students can play games in the gym, choose from a number of different board games in the game room or work on their computer skills in the computer lab.

There are also specialty activities such as photography, arts and crafts and fine arts.

"We try to keep the students occupied but at the same time keep them doing things that are interesting to them."

There are currently more than 600 students in the Romulus chapter of the Boys and Girls Club. Each day about 125 students take part in the Merriman Elementary program and 135-150 students participate at the Wick Elementary program.

The Boys and Girls Club also offer different types of activities to children on Saturdays and during school holidays and breaks, when children need them the most, said Rigger.

The club, which includes the after school program and endless summer programs is \$30 per year.

Lions Club gearing up for White Cane Week

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Every spring Michiganders driving through any major intersection can expect to see men in yellow aprons holding little white canes asking for donations to the Michigan Lions Club.

This year will be no different.

The Metro Airport Lions Club will be participating in White Cane Week this year on April 23 and 24 in Romulus.

"It is a very important event each year for the Lions Club," said Richard Johnson, secretary of the Metro Airport club. "It helps raise thousands of dollars in donations for the different charities we are involved with each year and it is part of long history of the club helping out those who are blind."

Melvin Jones, a Chicago businessman interested in bettering

the community in which he lived and worked, founded the Lions Club International in 1917. Then in 1925 at the Lions Club annual convention, Helen Keller challenged the Lions Club to become "Knights of the Blind." It has become the rallying cry for Lions projects around the world, according to Johnson.

The International Lions Club is the largest charitable organization in the world with more than 1.4 million members in more than 43,000 clubs covering 182 countries, said Johnson.

Each year, the Metro Airport Lions Club generates about \$10,000 for charities in the area, including the Penrickton Center in Taylor.

"This is a facility to help multi-handicapped children," said Johnson. "One of those

See **Club**, page 3

Children to spend day on job at district court

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Employees of the 34th District Court will be taking their daughters and sons to work today.

The court which serves Belleville and Romulus, and the townships of Sumpter, Van Buren and Huron, will join in the Ms. Foundation for Women sponsored, "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day."

The national day was originally created to expose young women to the workforce and encourage them to excel in the business world. But, as an offshoot of the program, many workplaces have opted to include boys.

"Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" is organized during the school year so girls and boys can take what they learn in workplaces on Thursday and apply it to the classroom on Friday, according to the foundation.

The Ms. Foundation for Women launched the program in April 2003 to broaden the discussion about the competing challenges of work and family. During the 10 years the foundation has organized the event, they have realized how difficult it will be for children to realize their expectations. For girls to achieve their full potential, boys must also be encouraged, according to the foundation.

See **Court**, page 3

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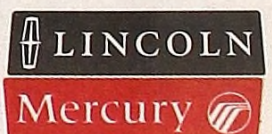
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Concerned mother makes plea to community, police

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Thieves stole far more than a van from the Whitehorn Group Home in Romulus recently. They took the only transportation of six mentally handicapped women who depended on the vehicle for doctor's visits, workshops and classes.

"Please be more alert and keep your eyes open in our community to watch out for people who are not able to watch out for themselves," said Judy Black, the mother of 38-year Dawn Black, a resident at the group home. Black said she is upset with what has occurred around the home in which her daughter lives.

"In the last year their van has been stolen three times," said Black. "Three times, I am sorry but there is no excuse for that in this community. It is uncalled for, especially for these girls."

Black said that six girls currently live at the group home, which has a 24-hour staff to care for them. The

home has one van and it is essential to the well being of the residents there.

"The van is the only way the girls have to get to work-shop, school or doctor's appointments," said Black. "Without the van they are put in a dangerous position."

The mentally handicapped women are all in their early 20s to late 30s. They all require around the clock care. Some of the women are enrolled in a workshop for 20 hours a week and depend on the van for transportation. Without the van they are not able to attend.

"For my daughter it is like a job for 20 hours a week," said Black. "It is in Dearborn Heights, so that van is needed to transport her back and forth. The other girls also attend school in Livonia, so again it is a life-line for them."

The first time the van was stolen, it was not recovered. So, according to Black, the home had to purchase another van. The second time the van was stolen, again it was not recovered, so again the home had to purchase a van. The last time the van was stolen in February 2004, the van was

recovered by Ferndale Police, but the inside of it was torn apart, according to Black.

Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department said he was unaware of the first two thefts, but was sympathetic to Black's concerns.

"We do what we can to keep the community safe," said Leacher. "We are able to periodically drive by any residents home when a break in such as this has occurred and patrol that area more frequently."

Leacher said that this area of Romulus is not a location that is high in vehicle thefts.

Black admitted that the first two thefts may not have been reported to the police by the home, but to her that point is null and void.

"These are not monsters," she said. "These girls are just people who happened to have some problems. We as a community need to watch out for them a little bit more, because they are not able to do it themselves. It is not only the police departments responsibility, it is also ours as neighbors."



Students from Romulus Middle School recently competed in the annual Regional Science Olympiad. The team, which consisted of 15 students, brought home six finishes in the competition.

Students fair well at science competition

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Bottle rockets and bridge building

They sound like projects a rocket scientist and architect would work on, but 15 students at Romulus Middle School have been studying the two projects for months leading up to the Regional Science Olympiad.

The Olympiad is an annual event in which students from middle schools in Wayne County compete in more than 30 different scientific events.

"Events such as the Olympiad give students experience in the world of science in two ways," said Sharon Grandall, an eighth grade science teacher at Romulus Middle School. "First, it teaches them that science is a team sport. Teamwork means a lot in this field and this competition allows them to see that first-hand. Secondly, the event gives them the opportunity to use the knowledge they have gained in the classroom and put it to work in the real world."

The annual event, which

began in 1983, has become something that the kids look forward to all year, according to Grandall.

"Around November kids in the school begin to try out for the 15 available positions on the school team," said Grandall. "Those students that are chosen then begin to work on their own project about three afternoons a week after school."

Students can choose from a number of different events in which to compete and some are more popular than others.

One of the most popular events at the competition is the forensic crime buster project. Grandall explained that in this event students are placed in the middle of a crime scene and from that they are required to obtain many different elements of evidence.

"They have to know how to do fingerprint, footprint and tire print analysis," said Grandall. "They must also analyze DNA results and match them to a suspect. It is a really cool event and the students seem to really enjoy competing in it."

Other events include using chemistry to discover what a mystery powder is and building a structure that would cushion an egg dropping from 30 feet so the egg doesn't break.

Grandall said this is the fourth year the Romulus Middle School has participated in the event and she said she is very proud of the results.

Students received six different medals at the event. In the Pentathlon, students Katrina Jadzinski, Victor Russell, Brian Cummings and Jimmy McGlynn received a third place finish. In this event students first had to answer five questions correctly, complete 10 push-ups, 15 jumping jacks and three chicken foot hops and then individually jump rope 15 times and throw a Frisbee through a hoop 20 feet away.

Students also received two sixth place finishes, one seventh place finish and two 10th place finishes in other events.

"We did pretty well when you consider that we went up against 37 other schools," said Grandall. "We are very proud of all the hard work our students put into the event."

Voting

FROM PAGE 1

of a deal. But as of last week I was informed that was not the case."

Choate said she learned that regardless of the system the county chooses, Romulus will be required to purchase new equipment to be in place by January 2005. The amount of new equipment needed depends on the state and county, said Choate.

"If the county chooses to go with Accuvote, we will have to purchase only the tabulators," she said. "But if the county chooses another system, we will have to replace everything. So, we are hoping the county goes

with Accuvote."

Funding for the new machines is also in question. Choate has been asking for months, but still has received no answer.

"The state did receive some funds from the federal government to pay for the upgrades, but I know that we will have to put in some money up front and get reimbursed later," she said. "The problem is we still don't know the amount we are talking about, because according to the county, the state has not determined what vendors can be used as of yet."

Choate said for the time being, Romulus officials are stuck waiting for decisions to be made at the state and county level.

Court

FROM PAGE 1

More than 40 visitors are scheduled to participate in the events at the court that include meeting with Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green, Judge Brain Oakley and Judge David Parrott.

"We're expecting the biggest group we've ever had," said Oakley. "Not only do we want to educate the kids, but we want it to be entertaining for them too. Every year the event gets more involved. Instead of the kids spending all day with their own parents, they will have a bunch of activities to do."

Oakley said his job will be to keep the courtroom going while

visiting with the children. The court will still be in operation during the event, he said.

Court staff members have been working year-round to generate funds for the event. They had a donation breakfast and a casual day where they paid \$1 to wear casual clothes to work, he said.

The event today includes a continental breakfast and a tour of the jail holding facility by court officers. Visitors will have the opportunity to view their parent or relative at work and get a hands-on opportunity to see the work performed at the court.

Outside, visitors will see an assortment of vehicles used by the public safety entities of the five venues the court services.

Club

FROM PAGE 1

handicaps being loss of sight. It is a great place for kids and we do what we can to help them out, because they get no funding from the state."

The club donates money to leader dog schools to help train dogs to help the blind, the Michigan Eye Bank and Transplantation Center in Ann Arbor through the University of Michigan, as well as Beaumont Silent Children, a place for deaf and blind children through Beaumont Hospital.

The club also helps local organizations such as Helping Hands when asked, said Johnson.

"We will also help to supply glasses to those in Romulus who need them, but can't afford them," said Johnson. "That is why events like White Cane Week are so important for our club."

Johnson said he estimates that is the weather cooperates the club could bring in more than \$2,000 in just two days.

"The only thing we can do is pick a busy intersection and get out there an ask for donations," he said. "The community has to do the rest."

OBITUARIES

LEWIS, Alton Lee

Alton Lee Lewis, 55, of Willis, formerly of Fenton and Belleville, died April 7.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 35 years, Linda G. (Keffer) Lewis; a daughter, Retta (William) Chamberlain of Belleville; a son, Raymond Lee Lewis of Willis; sisters, Dora Vest of Midway, WV, Phyllis Roop of Dothan, WV, Sally Ellis of Fort Pierce, FL, Joan (Charles) Terry and Joy (Al) Dobs, both of Glen Jean WV, Judith (Dee) Sheehan and Diane (Danny) McKinney, both of Oak Hill WV; brothers, Willard (Charlene) Lewis of Panama City, FL, Bill (Kathy) Lewis of Adrian, his twin brother, Rabon (Dottie) Lewis of Somerset, NJ and Pannell (Patty) Lewis of Pineville, WV; his in-laws, Charles B. and Pauline Keffer of Oak Hill WV; sisters-in-law, Gladys K. Pack of Scarbro WV and Eulaine Reid of Sunbury, OH; and grandchildren Sarah, Jacob and Katelyn Chamberlain, all of Belleville.

Mr. Lewis retired after more than 31 years at General Motors Corp.

Funeral services were at Sun Full Gospel Church in West Virginia with the Rev. Jessie Parker officiating.

Interment was at High Land Memorial Park in Oak Hill, WV.

Local arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

SMITH, Roderick E.

Roderick E. Smith, 89, of Charlevoix, formerly of Romulus, died April 9.

Among his survivors is a brother, Louis Smith of Flint; children, David Smith of Mesa, AZ, Roderick Smith II of Redmond, WA, Sandra Soley of Matthews, NC, Joanne Carlson of Charlevoix, Jerome Smith of Longwood, FL, Zetta Wojcik of Perkins Township, ME and Michael Smith of Holiday, FL; 25 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren, and one-great-great-grandchild.

Mr. Smith was a member of St. Mary's Parish in Charlevoix and sang in the choir. He also participated in The Gregorian Club of St. Aloysius in Romulus. He served as president during his membership in both the Progressive Club and Kiwanis in Romulus.

Mr. Smith was the secretary of both the 15th and 16th Democratic Congressional Districts of Michigan. He was past president of the Romulus Democratic Club and an officer in the Dearborn Democratic Club. He was a former Romulus Township Clerk and a former Romulus Township Supervisor.

Mr. Smith moved to Charlevoix following his retirement from Hay Plumbing and Heating Co.

A funeral mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Charlevoix.

Arrangements were entrusted to Winchester's Funeral Home.

THOMPSON, Larry O.

Larry O. Thompson, 57, of Waldron formerly of Romulus, died April 10 in Montpelier, OH.

Among his survivors are his daughter, Amy (Jim) Cohoon of Eagle Point, OR; his mother, Norma Thompson of Romulus; brothers, Jerry Thompson of Belleville and Kirk Thompson of Romulus, and two grandchildren.

Graveside services were at Waldorn Cemetery with the Rev. William Kren officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Eagle Funeral Home in Waldron.

KRUSE, Franzi

Franzi Kruse, 95, of Willis, formerly of Albany, NY, died April 6 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Among her survivors are her son,

Richard A. Kruse of Willis; a daughter, Elaine K. Banks of New London, CT; a brother, Andreas Amberger of Germany; a sister, Rosa Mayr, also of Germany; grandchildren, Daniel J. Banks of Tampa, FL and Maria E. Banks of New York City, and three great-grandchildren, Kevin, Kyle and Kaylee Banks of Tampa, FL.

Funeral services were at the Griswold Funeral Home in Schenectady, NY and at St. Clare's Church in Colonie where the Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated.

Mrs. Kruse moved to the U.S. from Ketteerschwang Germany in 1930. She was a communicant of St. Clare's Church in Colonie for many years.

She had been residing with her son in Willis since 2001.

Interment was at Memory's Garden Cemetery in New York.

KAILIMAI, Henry "Hank"

Henry "Hank" C. Kailimai, 70, of Belleville, died April 18.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 42 years, R. Laverne (Wilson) Kailimai; children, Michael (Frances) Kailimai, Martin (Debbie) Kailimai, and Mark Kailimai, all of Belleville and Mitchel Kailimai of Willis; a sister, Gretchen (Bill) Welch of Garden City; a brother, Larry (Hester) Kailimai of Rockwood; six grandchildren, Michelle (Todd), Tabatha, Andrew, Brian, Tina and Jared, and great-grandchildren, Dakota and Gage.

Mr. Kailimai served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the Milan Moose, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the OHA Hawaiian Registry.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

Interment was at Parkview Memorial Gardens in Livonia.

WINEKOFF, Rickey Todd

Rickey Todd Winekoff, 41, of Wayne, died March 30.

Among his survivors are his wife, Angela M. Green-Winekoff; sons, Steven Winekoff of Westland and Derek Winekoff of Davidson, ML; his parents, Carl D. and Dell Faye (Templeman) Winekoff of Belleville; a brother, Carl D. (Niccole) Winekoff, Jr. of Canton Township; sisters, Shawn (John) Richmond of Belleville and Tamara (Dan) Bledsoe of Ypsilanti; a grandmother, Mary Templeton of Saline; 15 nieces and nephews, and a grand-niece, Erin Martin.

Mr. Winekoff was a 1980 graduate of Belleville High School where he was an All-American wrestler and was on the football team. He was the owner and operator of Swan's Locksmith Service in Belleville.

Funeral Services were at Liberty Baptist Church in Belleville with the Rev. Roger Henson officiating.

Interment was at Marble Park Cemetery in Milan.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

SCHALL, Earl Stephen

Earl Stephen Schall, 80, of Chelsea, formerly of the Wayne, Westland area, died March 28.

Among his survivors are his wife, Zena Schall; children, Susan M. Reid of Chelsea and Stephen A. Brown of Howell; sisters, Eunice Carbrey of St. Louis, MS and Rosalie (Ralph) Donovan of Ann Arbor; brothers, Richard (Betty) of Indiana, Ralph (Mary) of Dundee and Thomas (Roberta) of Dundee, and three grandchildren, Gregory, Shawn and Nicole Reid.

Mr. Schall served in the U.S. Army dur-

ing World War II and was awarded a Purple Heart. He worked in the Wayne-Westland schools for 30 years until his retirement in 1988.

A funeral mass was celebrated at St. Mary Catholic Church in Chelsea with the Rev. William Turner as celebrant.

Graveside military honors followed at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Jackson.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Cole Funeral Chapel in Chelsea.

FRANZ, Carol M.

Carol M. Franz, 84, of Alma, formerly of Wayne, died April 11.

Among her survivors are her sons, Ronald (Debby) Franz of New York, NY and Kevin (Grace) Franz of Richmond Hills, NY; a daughter, Sharyn (Jon) Greening of Alma, four grandchildren, Karla and Megan Greening and Paul Franz and Brandon Franz, and her dear friend, Rose Bell of Cherry Hill N.J.

Mrs. Franz served in the U.S. Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She was employed with the Wayne-Westland Community Schools as a secretary, prior to her retirement.

A memorial services was at Peace Lutheran Church in Alma with the Rev. Edward Pankow officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Dewey Funeral Home of Alma.

BRITTIAN, Viola M.

Viola M. Brittan, 101, of Detroit, died March 17.

Among her survivors are her step-daughters, Vivian and Sandra and a granddaughter, Evette.

Funeral services were at the Penn Funeral Home with the Rev. Thomas Higginbotham officiating.

Interment was at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Ypsilanti Township.

JACKSON, Christopher

Christopher Jackson, 46, of Inkster, died March 19.

Among his survivors are his mother, Ophelia; brothers, William and Tommy, and sisters, Elizabeth and Diane.

Mr. Jackson was a guitar player and amateur magician.

Funeral services were at Penn Funeral Home with the Rev. Barbara Brown officiating.

Interment was at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Ypsilanti Township.

HEARST, Clarence E.

Clarence E. Hearst, 67, of Romulus, died March 20.

Among his survivors are his wife, Jewel; daughters, Shelly, Lori, Rose, Belinda, Janice and Krystal; 10 grandchildren, and seven step-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Hearst was a parachute jumper in the 69th Airborne Division of the military and later worked for Ford Motor Co. for more than 30 years before his retirement.

Funeral services were at Penn Funeral Home with the Rev. Phillip Ferrell officiating. Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery.

LONG, Martha Mae

Martha Mae Long, 86, of Inkster, died March 20.

Among her survivors are her sons, Willie, Robert, Ricardo and Mathis and daughters, Cornelia and Mary Lou.

Mrs. Long was the owner of Thomas Enterprises and was retired from the Westwood School District.

Funeral services were at Springhill Missionary Baptist Church with the Rev. Oscar Carter officiating.

Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery in Wayne.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home in Inkster.

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Belleville Co-op Apartments will offer seniors a rewarding and active lifestyle.

This rental co-op is a 3-story building with 61 luxury apartments. There will be a central laundry room, common area balconies, lounges and a cozy library. Heat/air conditioning will be included in the rent and will be individually controlled in the apartments.

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Area Homeland Security funding delayed

Theresa Wherrett
Staff Writer

Two and a half years after 9/11, some Wayne County communities are still waiting for federal funds earmarked to improve homeland security. About \$23.4 million is currently hanging in limbo, but a disagreement between the officials in the City of Detroit and the Office of Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano have stalled the disbursement of monies.

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and Ficano were scheduled to meet last week to discuss how the funds would be allocated, but the meeting was postponed, according to Vanessa Denha of Ficano's office.

"We have not received anything yet," confirmed Denha. "(How much money Wayne County will receive) is yet to be determined."

Some officials said they were concerned because they had heard that Kilpatrick wanted 85 percent of the federal monies to be funneled into Detroit, with the remainder spent on outlying Wayne County cities. Ficano is seeking more money for the outlying communities.

It's a position with which police officials in the suburbs said they agree.

"Out-county (areas have) a larger population than the City of Detroit," said Westland Police Chief Daniel Pfannes.

Pfannes serves as co-chair of the Western Wayne County Chiefs of Police Emergency Management Team, a group that is also lobbying for more money. "We need an equitable distribution."

Wayne County, including Detroit, received a 2003 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) federal grant for \$12.2 million. The state

took 20 percent for costs, leaving \$9.76 million for security improvements. The parameters for that grant specify that the "working group" must take a regional metropolitan area approach, involving not only the core city but also the surrounding counties, contiguous jurisdictions, Mutual Aid partners and state agencies, according to Mark Snelson of the Wayne County Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Management (DHSEM).

The second federal grant, received for fiscal year 2004, was for \$13.7 million, of which the state took nothing, said Denha.

Regional readiness

The Homeland Security program is a both a descendant and a partner of the previous regional Emergency Management System. Michigan Public Act 390 of 1976 requires that the state, as well as all counties and local jurisdictions, must have an emergency management program that addresses planning, response, recovery and mitigation of hazards. Prior to Sept. 11, 2001, however, the emergency management plans of most municipalities were reactive and meant to cope with natural disasters such as floods and tornadoes.

"Mutual Aid is a long-lived thing," Pfannes said. "It's been in existence since before 9/11."

The appearance of Y2K, the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the blackout of 2003 simply underscored the need for proactive systems, said Snelson.

"Homeland Security is about anticipa-

tion," said Snelson. "Our role is to get information to the public and make sure they're as prepared as the government."

Federal and state directives regarding homeland security, as well as guidelines for grant money, have specified an ever-increasing focus on "regional readiness" — a term used to describe a collective approach to security measures.

"One of our priorities is to have interoperability between our systems," said Snelson. "If we can't talk to each other, we can't get anything done."

Tom Tiderington, Plymouth Township police chief, agreed. The township recently received a \$54,000 grant from the State of Michigan Homeland Security Grant program and used it to purchase radios for both the police and fire departments. It'll help them communicate better between the police and fire departments directly during emergencies. He said if the township pursued additional funds, it would be for basic needs: Communication equipment and first responder suits.

"We want to be able to talk amongst other policing agencies," Tiderington said. "After we're able to communicate, we'll need to be able to breathe. We need first responder suits. If we can't breathe, we can't be effective."

Ironically, cooperation in a regional emergency management team may have hurt some communities — at least financially.

Communities have a choice of operating as a separate entity seeking grant money or joining the Wayne County consortium and sharing the Wayne County funds. Eight municipalities have chosen to be stand-alone entities, and of those five — Livonia, Dearborn, Trenton, Canton

Township and Romulus — have received federal grant money totaling approximately \$2 million, said Snelson. The communities that opted to join Wayne County have not benefited as yet.

Wayne County and Detroit have also been excluded from receiving any money from a \$62.4 million counter terrorism federal grant given to Michigan for fiscal year 2004.

That grant, which was awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was the eighth-largest grant given to a state. However, because Detroit and Wayne County are considered to be separate entities receiving grant money, the \$62.4 million will be spread throughout other jurisdictions in Michigan and nothing will come to Detroit or Wayne County, said Snelson.

Money from other areas

That's not to say that Wayne County hasn't received any funds at all. The DHSEM has, in fact, received about \$1.27 million in non-federal grants since 1999, including a \$300,000 county grant for domestic preparedness equipment (communications equipment for hazardous materials teams) and a \$277,000 state grant for communications interoperability, said Snelson.

On Oct. 1, 2003, the DHSEM issued more than \$1.6 million in homeland security equipment to Wayne County communities, including radiological detection equipment, personal protection equipment, mass decontamination equipment and communications equipment. The idea

is to share what is available, according to Snelson.

"We can't hoard equipment at our office. If we kept the equipment, it would take too long to get it out to the communities when it's needed," said Snelson last November. "We've issued everything out to the field."

Kilpatrick and Ficano are expected to meet within the next two weeks to determine an allocation formula for federal funds. Once an agreement is made, the monies will be used for training, technology and equipment, Snelson said. That will bring Wayne County up to speed with Oakland County, which has

spent at least some of its homeland security funds.

"We've already received some equipment from Oakland County, about \$3,000 worth of personal protection equipment (and) we've been allocated about \$3,500 (citywide) by Oakland County for training," said James Petres, police chief for the City of Northville, which lies partially in Oakland County and partially in Wayne County. "We haven't heard anything from Wayne County yet. We're hoping we will be getting some of that (Wayne County) money."

Contributing writers: Scott Spielman, Meghan Chatham and Andrea King.

We can't hoard equipment at our office. If we kept the equipment, it would take too long to get it out to the communities when it's needed.

Mark Snelson
Wayne County Department
of Homeland Security

We want to be able to talk amongst other policing agencies. After we're able to communicate, we'll need to be able to breathe. We need first responder suits. If we can't breathe, we can't be effective.

Tom Tiderington

You Are Invited To Join

Judge Brian A. Oakley

at his

Re-Election Gala

Thursday, April 22, 2004

at the Bayou Grill

404 Main Street • Belleville, MI

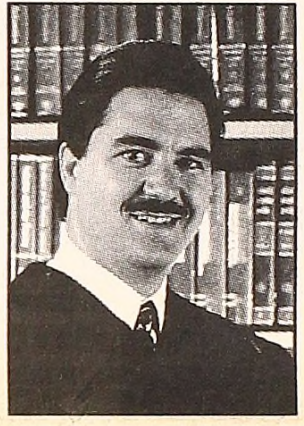
5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Call 734-941-8282 for ticket information.

Join the following Public Officials and Organizations that have already endorsed Judge Oakley*

Senator Raymond Basham • Senator Bruce Patterson • Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood
• Representative Phillip J. LaJoy • Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans • Belleville Police Chief Paul Davis
• Huron Twp. Police Chief Robert Metzger • Romulus Police Chief Charles Kirby • Sumpter Twp. Police Chief Clinton Brown • Police Officers Assn. of Michigan and its affiliate Romulus Police Officers Assn.
• Van Buren Twp. POLC - Patrols Officers Union and POLC - Command Officers Union
• Wayne County Law Enforcement Supervisory - Local 3317 - A.F.S.C.M.E. • Wayne County Sheriff/Airport Police Local 502 - Natl. Union of Police Officers S.E.U.I.U. AFL-CIO • Michigan Teamsters Joint Council 43

*Partial Listing Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Judge Brian A. Oakley, 16580 Christy Lane, Romulus, MI 48174

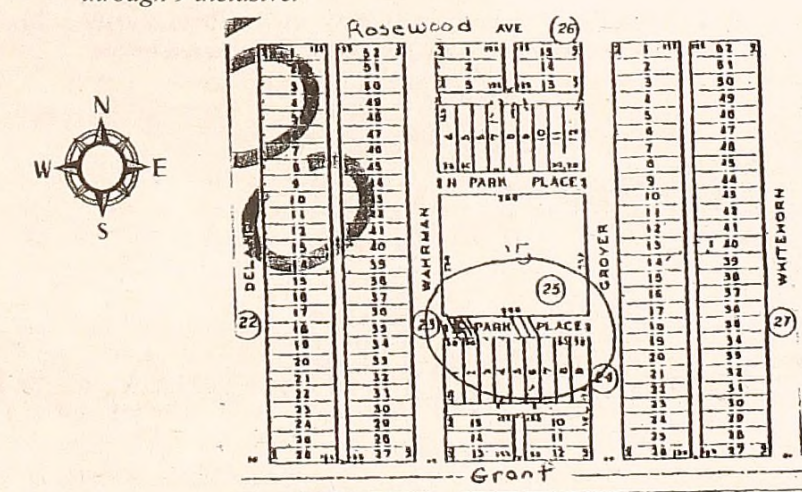


NOTICE

CITY OF ROMULUS STREET & ALLEY VACATION

Notice is hereby given, that the City Council of the City of Romulus, has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 on Monday, May 03, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed vacation of South Park Place in the Junction Subdivision, Block 24 between Grover and Wahrman abutting Lots 1 through 9 inclusive located as follows:

Vacate South Park Place in the Junction Subdivision Block 24 abutting Lots 1 through 9 inclusive.



Written comments may be submitted to the attention of Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485, no later than 12:00 o'clock noon, Monday, May 03, 2004.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: April 15, 2004
April 22, 2004

State proposes changes in annual student tests

A proposal that would overhaul the schedule school districts currently use to administer the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test has prompted concern from educators and parents.

If implemented, the plan would move the current dates for elementary and middle school student testing from early winter to fall. State Superintendent of Schools Tom Watkins delivered the proposal at the regular board meeting April 6, but no action was taken on the plan.

Martin Ackley, the state board spokesman, said the proposal would help districts use test data to adjust instruction to better meet the educational needs of stu-

dents, and improve the chances a school will meet requirements put into place by the No Child Left Behind Act.

"We think it would be better for teachers," Ackley said. "This way, they can use the information during the school year, when it would be most beneficial to students."

Currently, testing for elementary and middle school students takes place in January and February. Test scores are graded and released to schools in April or May. State law says high school students must take the MEAP within 30 days from the end of school, so a schedule change would not be possible without legislative approval.

But some district superinten-

dents say that, although they would not be opposed to the rescheduling of the test, they are skeptical of the motive for the proposal.

"I'm not opposed to moving the test," said Jim Ryan, Plymouth-Canton schools superintendent. "But if they're saying they're want it just so they can get the information back to us in a timely manner, that's not a good enough reason."

Leonard R. Rezmierski, Northville Community Schools superintendent, said he didn't want to comment on the specifics of the proposal. "I don't know that much about this, just what we've heard from the media," he said. "I would not want to say anything until we learn more."

Both superintendents raised questions about why districts were not contacted before the state board debated the proposal on April 7.

Ackley said the proposal is a suggestion, and that the board is working to put together an advisory panel to seek input from school officials and the public.

"It's in the discussion phase right now. It's important to say the board did not act on this Tuesday," he said. "We're very interested in input from educators."

Last year, getting the required Education YES! report cards, which are based on MEAP data, to schools on time was a major problem for the State Department

of Treasury, Ackley said. The delay was caused by computer problems suffered by an out-of-state vendor contracted to tabulate the results. This year, with the work being handled by the Michigan Department of Education, Ackley says the anticipated cards will be released by August. He added that MEAP results from the winter testing sessions for elementary and middle school students will be released by May 11.

According to the proposal, the schedule change would not take effect until the 2005-06 school year. Ackley said state board of education members would discuss the situation at the next regular meeting May 11.

Area foundation takes a gamble on latest fundraiser

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Community Assistance Foundation (CAF) 34 is taking a gamble on the generosity of local resident as organizers plan a fundraiser for May 1.

Belleville Mayor Thomas Fielder said that this year the committee has chosen a trip to Casino Royale in Windsor the first day of May as a way to generate funds for local children who need help in paying for prescription medication.

The CAF 34 is a charitable foundation organized to assist children and families in need in the communities of Belleville, Romulus, Huron Township, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township. This

year the group is concentrating on a prescription drug voucher program available in school districts within the 34th District Court, he said.

"We deal with people that have a specific issue and see if we can help them in any way," said Fielder. "We provide services that we already have and will have in the future, but not everyone can afford them."

School children whose family cannot afford prescription drugs may receive assistance through school leaders.

The CAF 34 committee assists with finding pharmacies willing to help with prescriptions and financial needs, he said.

"This is for children who don't have medical insurance,"

*This is for children who don't have medical insurance.
It is done voluntarily by prescription drug providers.
Anything that they do not pay for, we will.*

**Belleville Mayor,
Thomas Fielder**

said Fielder. "It is done voluntarily by prescription drug providers. Anything that they do not pay for, we will."

The CAF 34 started five years ago when an area resident cancer patient - Shannon Spicer - needed money to pay for her medical bills. Currently, along with the drug voucher

program, CAF 34 is working to help Van Buren Township resident Jason Stanley.

Fielder said that if it is a worthy cause, CAF 34 will consider raising funds.

"This year we wanted to try something a little different," said Fielder. "We want people to feel that they are getting

something for their dollar with the trip. We plan our fundraisers on a need-to-know basis. We are not interested in stock-piling money in the bank."

The CAF 34 committee includes: Judge Brian Oakley of the 34th District Court, Fielder, Keith Johnston, Kevin Johnston, Bob Thorne, Jim Richards, Clarence Hoffman and Ken Brooks.

Tickets for the May 1 trip are on sale now. They are \$25 per person; and you must be 21 or older. The ticket price includes: transportation, \$10 of casino tokens and a \$5 meal coupon, and can be purchased by calling Fielder at (734) 697-0633.

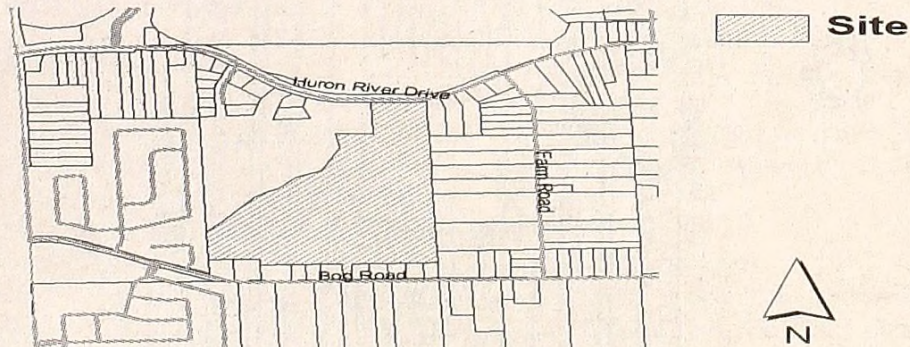
"We also accept any donations directly as well," said Fielder.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Wednesday April 28, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-118-99-0007-712 approximately 40.93 acres is located on the south side of West Huron River Drive East of Rawsonville Road and West of Farm Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for a Planned Residential Development (PRD) per Section 7.04 of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., April 28, 2004, the hearing date.

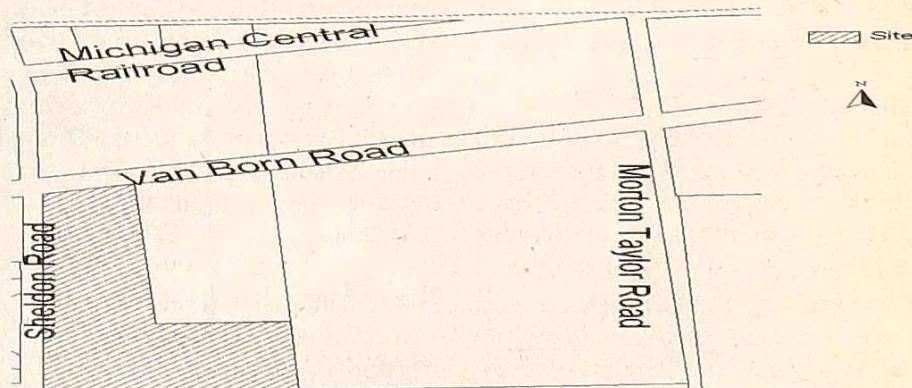
In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: April 22, 2004

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Parcel numbers V125-83-009-99-0006-702 approximately 20 acres proposed to be rezoned from M-1 General Industrial District to RM Multiple Dwelling Residential.



A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below. This property is located on the east side of Sheldon Road and west side of Morton Taylor Road.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: April 22, 2004



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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
 OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD APRIL 5, 2004 IN
 THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S.
 WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Pro Tem Debbie Romak.
 Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William A. Crova, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla,
 Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.

Absent: None.

Excused: Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Alan Lambert, Mayor

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth,
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-158

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held March 22, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-159

3A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Prybyla to grant a No-Fee Permit to the Romulus Christian Ministerial Association for their Annual Good Friday March beginning at 11:30 a.m. from the Romulus Historical Park proceed down Goddard Road to five Points.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

3A2. No Action Taken.

3A3. No Action Taken.

04-160

4A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Earl G. Kadau.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-161

4B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adopt a resolution honoring Justin Kuderik for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Crova, supported by Prybyla to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-162

5A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the administration and authorize the firm of Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment, Inc., Consulting Engineers to proceed with the Boundary Surveys for the Proposed Senior Center/recreation Administrative offices and Historic, with funds provided through Community Development Block Grant.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-163

5B. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Public Assistance Grant Agreement FEMA-3189-EM with the State of Michigan for reimbursement of expenses incurred during the "Blackout" August 14 through August 17, 2003.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-164

5C1. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to concur with Mayor Alan Lambert, and appoint Mr. Jack Trumble to the recreation Commission with his term to expire January 23, 2005 and to approve the re-appointments of Ms. Diane Poet, Ms. Sandra Tenney and Mr. Jerry Kittle with their terms to expire January 23, 2007; Ms. Tereatha Allen with her term to expire January 23, 2006 and Ms. Margaret Maciejewski and Mr. Charles Shonta with their term to expire January 23, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-165

5C2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Prybyla to concur with Mayor Alan Lambert and approve the re-appointment of James Crova to the Romulus Recreation Commission, term to expire January 23, 2006.

Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Abstain - Crova.

Motion Carried.

04-166

5C3. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to adopt a resolution thanking Paul Lewkowicz for his many years of service to the Recreation Commission.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-167

6A1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendments 03/04-35, 36 and 37 introduced at the meeting held March 22, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-168

6A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Cynthia Lyon, AICP, City Planner, and approve the release of the Draft Master Plan dated January 27, 2004 in order to allow the 90-day Agency review period to begin prior to final Adoption.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-169

6A3. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with City Assessor Julie Albert and adopt a resolution opposing House Bill 4234, a Bill that would result in a loss of \$72,500 to the City annually.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-170

6A4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla authorize the Administration to pursue a low interest loan from the Michigan State Revolving Fund to finance installation of a sanitary sewer on Merriman between Eureka and Pennsylvania and on Herman Street from Ozga to its western terminus to remedy failing septic systems in those two (2) areas.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Linda R. Choate, CMC
 Clerk

Publish: April 22, 2004

OPINION

Just leave him be

Who would have thought a simple, plump, red-checker-clad youngster holding a hamburger aloft would have sparked so much attention?

Reports of the controversy surrounding the Big Boy statue on Ford Road in Canton Township have spread from the township to reach a regional and even national audience. The restaurant chain probably hasn't had this much free publicity since the first Austin Powers movie.

Not bad for a guy who can't even speak on his own.

Those familiar with the story will give witness to the fact that the poor Big Boy has had a tough time recently. Last year, he was stolen as a prank. When he was returned, owners of the restaurant franchise were cited because they already have their allotment of signs in front of their establishment.

They've since been wading through the court system and gathering a lot of grass roots support. More than 3,000 patrons visiting the restaurant have signed a petition in support of the Big Boy's continued presence as a local landmark.

It's a matter that was complicated last year when Canton Supervisor Tom Yack sent out a letter to owner Bob Matar saying that the township didn't object to the placement of the statue near the restaurant. Yack has since admitted that he shouldn't have sent that letter; the issue should have been resolved through the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Members of that body were right to call him on it, too. He was clearly overstepping his authority and diminishing the efforts of those volunteers at the same time.

But that's in the past. The best thing to do now is learn from the experience and recognize the difficulties municipalities face as they try to set a single standard for a community, forge a consistent criteria for everyone to follow, no matter what their type of business. It's a laudable goal, but it sometimes allows individuality to fall between the cracks.

As far as what should happen to the statue, we think it's clear: Nothing. Officials in Canton have wanted to foster more art in the community, anyway.

There's no time to waste

"Chance favors the prepared mind."

Louis Pasteur said it first, and people have recognized this simple truth ever since.

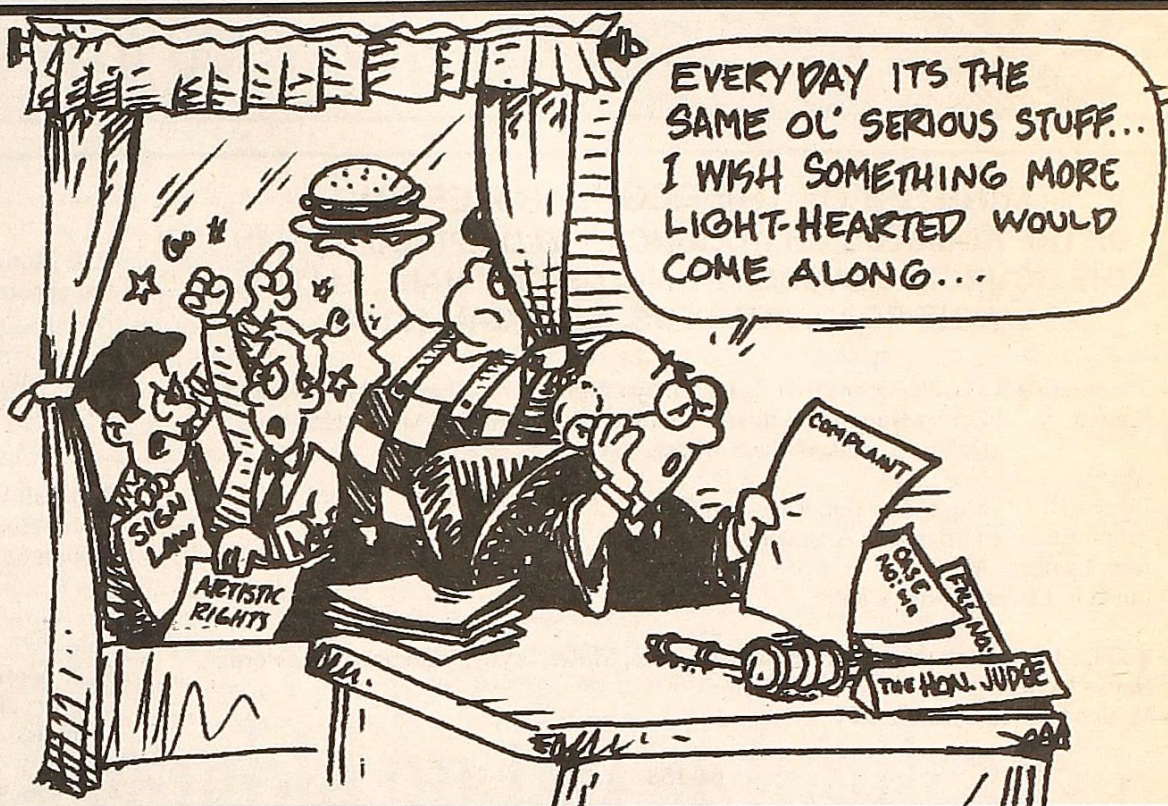
Officials in the City of Wayne recognized it when they saw the potential to apply for grants through the Cool City Pilot program. The funds, about \$1.1 million altogether, have been set aside to help launch several projects that came to light through the Cool Cities Initiative put forth last year by Governor Jennifer Granholm.

The program came with a couple of hitches – it stipulates that no project can get more than \$100,000 and anyone interested in the funding has to apply before May 7. It's a pretty tight timetable considering that the details of the program were only unveiled to municipalities last week.

Still, Wayne is better prepared than most of the more than 300 municipalities that took part in the Cool Cities Initiative. They bought into it, formed a permanent committee made of original task force members and that group, the Wayne 2020 Committee, is already at work.

They, like others interested in the grant funds, will have to walk a fine line in order to get approval. The program will most likely benefit communities that have a clearly identified plan and can use the grants

See **Funds**, page 9



A learning experience

Reporting on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools District (PCCS) has been quite a learning experience for me.

I always thought that school business was just short of monkey business with the jostling of the continuous "We're-so-great" pats on the back and the recurring mantra of "We-don't-have-any-money."

My cynicism may have started when I was a young man of voting age, 18 and cocky.

My mother worked for the Southgate Community School District for as long as I can remember and always begged my older brother and I to vote in favor of pending bond issues, even when I wasn't living there.

I can't speak for my brother but I never did. I thought my voting rights were supposed to be used for changing the fabric of America – I didn't want to waste my time on simple school board elections.

I didn't understand, then, why people without children should have to pay more taxes to support a community service they didn't use. Once I became a homeowner myself, without children, I felt much the same way.

What can I say? I was young and dumb.

However, since my short stint covering the PCCS, I have realized that there is much more to it. I've either learned a few things about the nature of running a school district or I grew up. Or I did a little bit of both.

I have covered regular school board meetings, special meetings, bond steering committee meetings and budget meetings, much to my chagrin. To be honest, the pats on the back were annoying at first, but I recently started to see things in a different light.

The members of the PCCS school board, I believe, are genuinely compassionate about the community, the students, teachers and other workers and have battled with the dilemma of how much money to ask the community for – not an easy decision. For months they have been debating the "needs" and "wants" for the school district and have been whittling away at the lists to make it more affordable for the community. I generally think, as impossible as it may seem, they are trying to do their best to make everyone happy.

Some of the district schools are dilapidated and others are overcrowded. This leads to a

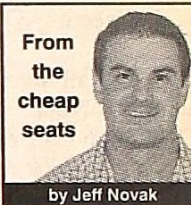
need for renovation and expansion that takes money – lots and lots of money. There is a need to pass a bond.

The superintendent, James Ryan, and his administrative staff have done an outstanding job of offering the school board members the information and recommendations needed for a comprehensive decision on the bond. Special committees like the Bond Steering Committee did an amazing job of providing a district-wide report of the "needs" and "wants" and the Housing Committee has been excellent in providing numbers of current and future student enrollments.

But Patricia Brand, executive director of business services, provided the most astounding and mind-changing information for me.

For a \$100 million bond, the average household (based on a median home value of \$235,000) will have to pay about \$53 more a year in taxes. Not every month or even every six months, but a year. I know people, including

See **Schools**, page 9



Accidents happen, be prepared

We hear a lot about how we should eat better and exercise to stay healthy. And there's no doubt about it, we need to do those things.

But there are other very practical things we should do to maintain our health and take responsibility for our own safety. For example, it's terribly important to buckle your seatbelt every time you ride in a car. There are still far too many people getting hurt or dying in car accidents because they don't buckle up.

If people you care about still don't wear seatbelts, help them develop the habit.

We also need to teach our kids how they can protect their health and safety. One way to do this is to make sure they're properly protected when they're riding their bikes or in-line skating. They need to wear helmets and not take unnecessary risks that can lead to broken bones or worse.

By taking these simple precautions, we can dramatically reduce our chances of being injured when accidents happen.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's longggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the

Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



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Letters

Trustee supports trash ban

To the editor;

The laws signed into effect recently give state regulators and police power to inspect garbage trucks and turn them back if they have items that are prohibited such as tires, medical waste, yard clippings, oil, batteries holding them to the same standards we are held to.

At the present time, under federal law, Michigan cannot restrict the interstate flow of trash but a lot of people are involved in this landfill issue on the state and federal level so we in Sumpter need to get to work and get our industrial area viable to see what we can do to improve our tax base and not be almost complete-

ly reliant on the landfill revenue.

We fought long and hard to keep that landfill out of Sumpter. Sumpter residents even passed a millage to fight the landfill, but since the landfill is here we have gotten used to it and like all the income it has brought. Most of the money has been wasted and residents have not received the benefits we were promised from the landfill revenue. We have forgotten our values and being at the Crosswinds Marsh and seeing all the people and especially the children involved in the issue reminded me of how hard a lot of our residents fought for the same issue to keep the trash out.

Sharon Claxton,
Sumpter Township Trustee

Manager thanks township

To the editor;

I'm writing to thank Jon LaFever and the Canton Township Youth Program for their help with our very successful concert fundraiser at the Summit on the Park on Friday, March 19.

We had seven of the best local bands perform live in a benefit for 88.1 FM. Each band (For the Fallen, the transfer, Sandbox Heroes, CPX, The Same Fate, Madison A.D. and Which Way is Home) was great. We appreciate their willingness to perform at the event.

The evening was loud, we had 380 kids attend and we raised some significant money for the

station. This was one of the smoothest events I've ever been involved with because of the hard work of Jon LaFever and the youth staff at the Summit. It was obvious that they did this before because it went off without a hitch.

I especially appreciate Canton Township's willingness to host this event. Many 'family friendly' programs leave out teens. Canton's desire for this group should be commended.

We look forward to working with Jon and the Canton Township staff in the future.

Bill Keith
Station Manager
WSDP 88.1 FM

Funds

FROM PAGE 8

to leverage additional funds.

The City of Wayne has several such projects, but only one of them fit the proposed timeline: the development of a small eye-

friendly plaza surrounding the donated clock tower that will anchor the corner of Wayne Road and Michigan Avenue. If the program continues, grant funds could be used to the benefit of the State Wayne Theater or other projects.

The clock tower may seem like

a small project to some, but in many ways it fits the profile of grant-worthy plans. It makes sense, too, because the corner is such a prominent one in the city. It'll provide a bookend for the entrance side on the westbound side of Michigan Avenue and show all passersby that the city is

serious about enhancing its image.

It may be difficult to get the concept proposals in concise enough form to woo state money into the city, but Wayne has a decent shot at securing the grants. They were prepared, after all.

Schools

FROM PAGE 8

myself, who spend that in one night on pizza and beer. I know families that can spend that in one trip through the McDonald's drive-through.

Even for a \$150 million bond, the average homeowner (based on the same numbers) would pay approximately \$125 more per year in taxes. I know people, not including myself, that can spend that in one trip to the cos-

metic counter.

For those who read this and think, "Well, what if we have a \$500,000 home?"

Well, I'm no mathematician, but it could range between \$105 and \$250 per year depending on the amount of bond approved - if you own a half-million dollar home and can't afford to pay an extra \$200 a year, than you're paying too much for your house.

Isn't it worth it, to the community and the school district, if everyone stayed in to eat an extra night or decided to walk

past Marshall Field's just once out of 365 days to provide an adequate and safe learning environment for the children?

Yes.

Good schools are one of the first and most important things a family looks at before moving into a community.

By voting for the bond, the community will improve the schools, which will result in higher property values for homeowners. Education will also improve,

which will contribute to the well being of the students and, in essence, could change the fabric of America. What's the saying - today's students are tomorrow's leaders? I see it as a win-win situation.

Someday I plan on being a parent so, I figure, there is no reason not to start supporting, building and maintaining a healthy educational future for them now.

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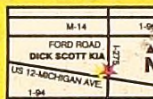
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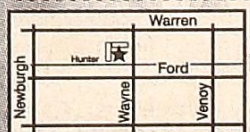
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THE SCENE

Here comes 'the Bride'

Kill Bill Vol. 2 provides fitting end to Tarantino's tale

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

I remember my early years as a wee lad trying to keep my eyes open late every Saturday night in hopes to make it through another showing of *Kung Fu Theater*.

I did make it through, more times than I probably should have, only to be engulfed in the cheesy world of B-rated Chinese kung-fu movies. Ah, good times.

Until recently, I've longed for the comfort of those poorly dubbed movies to fill late Saturday nights. But thanks to Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill* saga, I long no more.

Kill Bill Vol. 2 was released nationwide Friday and led the weekend in box office sales. The film followed on the coattails of Vol. 1 released in theaters not more than six months ago and the DVD release last Tuesday, three days before Vol. 2 hit theaters.

The much-anticipated sequel fell short, though.

Volume 1 was a tidal wave that left the audience drenched with action and blood and left them yearning for more — more story, that is. The first installment lacked the background of the Bride (Uma Thurman) and a cohesive story line but was glued together by fantastic fight sequences that splattered, squirted and oozed violence at every flick of a sword, whereas Vol. 2 filled in the gaps of the story but steered away from the action and bloodshed.

However, there is a certain scene viewers will need to keep their eye on because it's sure to leave a "squishy" feeling in weaker stomachs.

For the most part, Vol. 2 takes a step back and allows viewers a chance to become absorbed in the story masterfully drafted by Tarantino. The tale starts exactly where the first left off — following the revenge path of the Bride, an ex-assassin, as she hunts down those who attempted to take her life and that of her unborn child.



And, of course, her ultimate goal is to kill Bill (David Carradine) her long-time mentor and former lover.

Along the way she finds herself in grave danger, prompting a flashback that details her training with master Pai Mei (Gordon Liu) whom is by far the most entertaining character of the sequel and creates the most memorable scenes. Remembering the tutelage of Mei, the Bride is able to dig her way out of trouble to continue her immediate quest of knocking off Bill's final two lackeys, the poetic cowboy Budd (Michael Madsen) and the one-eyed Elle Driver (Daryl Hannah).

The hunt leads to one of the few fight scenes, which is cleverly choreographed sequence between the Bride and Driver

in a very narrow mobile home. The fight's finale is a queasy yet laughable "eye-popping" experience.

When the Bride finally tracks down Bill, she is blindsided by the discovery that her daughter whom she thought was lost is, in fact, alive and living with her father, Bill. This leads to the grand finale — the mother of all fights, or so I thought.

I was anxious to see if Carradine still possessed moves from his days on the television series *Kung Fu*. Unfortunately, the fight left me as unsatisfied and disappointed as a guy with a sick prom date.

Now, I'm more anxious to see if Tarantino's career-revitalizing magic will work as well for Carradine as it did for

John Travolta when he starred in *Pulp Fiction*, which resurrected his career.

Although Tarantino is a master in his own right, neither *Kill Bill Vol. 1* nor 2 can be considered his best work. He is equally talented as a director as he is a writer but Vol. 2 fell short of my expectations even as B-rated kung fu action flicks are concerned. It's hard to say that movie is a masterpiece when it is nothing more than a collage of every other classic martial arts film ever made.

However, it will be nostalgic enough for hardcore *Kung Fu Theater* fans and there is enough pop culture entrenched in the story, in only a way that Tarantino can ensure, that it is certain to be a cult classic among today's movie goers. It's not a bad thing; it's just short of his best.



Uma Thurman as the Bride



David Carradine and Uma Thurman

Movin' up

Local singer to appear on national talent show

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Belleville country singing sensation Rachel Williams may be out of the *Nashville Star 2* race, but she is not out of the country singing game.

She's moving up and moving out to Nashville, TN.

Williams performed *Kiss Me Like You're Coming Back* on the March 6 telecast of *Nashville Star 2*, but was not chosen as one of the top 10 finalists.

Although this was not her first TV competition, she said that the experience was unreal.

"It was humbling to go that far," said Williams. "It was not the way I wanted it to end, but it was a great opportunity and I had a lot of fun. You have to be open when you're up there on stage because you're exposed for comment and criticism. The only bad thing is not everyone is going to like you."

Williams said that she was hooked on music at a young age when she listened to the Judds.

"My grandparents were a big influence," said Williams. "I was always singing at family barbecues, in school and at church. You get used to performing. Sometimes I get nervous, especially in local shows, but I can't complain at all."

Her favorite country singers include Winona Judd, Reba McEntire and Martina McBride. She considers each of them "powerhouse" singers. Her favorite song *Testify to Love* is by one of her favorites, Winona Judd.

"I'm inspired by people who know how to get their message across in a powerful way," she said. "I have always gone for the powerhouse people who can really belt it out."

Williams has plenty of performing experience. She has performed at numerous fairs and concerts around Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania and has opened for Clay Walker, Cledus Judd, Tammy Cockran and other top country musicians. She has also performed on the *Queen Latifah Show* and *Star Search*. She recorded her first CD by the time she was 15, she said.

With all her experience it might surprise her fans to find out she's a procrastinator.

"Nashville Star proved to me that I was one," she said. "I sent in the forms at the last minute. But procrastination is in my genes. Hopefully it will get better."

Williams auditioned for *American Idol* when she was 16, but was not considered the right style for the show, she said.

"I went in there with my country twang," she said.

Next month, she will perform at the



Rachel Williams

Colgate Country Showdown competition May 16 in the Downtown Hoedown at Hart Plaza in Detroit. She will also perform at the Belleville Strawberry Festival in June.

If Williams is chosen as the state winner for Michigan in the Colgate Country Showdown, she will compete in the regional competition against other state winners. The grand prize winner will receive a demo-recording contract and \$100,000, she said.

"This is my fourth time in it," she said. "I have always won a state, now I hope I can get even further this time."

If Williams was not singing, she said she would be writing. She was always involved in school newspapers, she said.

"Singing is something I've worked really hard at," said Williams. "If I'm not singing I'm working at Cracker Barrel. I still get at least 10 people a day who notice me from *Nashville Star 2*. It has definitely changed my life."

Williams has received offers from several independent record labels, but is holding out to sign with a major label, she said.

Currently, she is taking a break from school and working to make money for her move to Nashville.

"Nashville is where I want to be," she said. "It's worth doing to be serious in country singing and I don't want to delay things any longer. I need to be recording more songs, so I can put out a real CD."

As for the Nashville Star competition, it is now down to four contestants. Williams said that she believes George Canyon will take home the top spot.

"He has had so much praise from so many different people," said Williams. "He is consistent in his performing, but it is tough because it's down to the last two shows and everyone is giving it their all."

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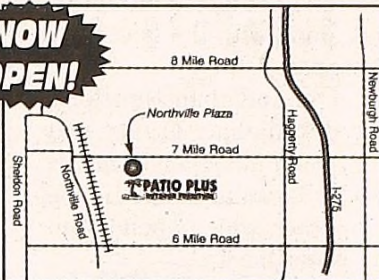


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'Punisher' doesn't translate well to screen

Scott Spielman
Editor

One of the problems with bringing a comic book character to the silver screen is all of the history and often-devoted fandom that comes along with the task. That and spandex.

Director Jonathan Hensleigh and writer Michael France may have avoided the second, smaller trap with the film adaptation of *The Punisher*, which opened this week, but not the first.

Had the movie stayed true to the origin of the character it may have been a better movie, but as it is it suffers from a few ludicrous elements and half-baked plot points.

That this is not the same Punisher who debuted for Marvel Comics in the middle of the 1980s is immediately clear. He's younger,



Thomas Jane

“
Had the movie stayed true to the origin of the character it may have been a better movie, but as it is it suffers from a few ludicrous elements and half-baked plot points.
”

better looking and he lives in Tampa, FL, rather than New York City.

The film opens with an FBI sting that takes the life of a mobster's son. It's the last official assignment for agent Frank Castle (Thomas Jane) who is retiring despite his relative youth.

The mobster turns out to be Howard Saint, who owns and operates Saints and Sinners, a high-tech dance club, as well as a lucrative money-laundering scheme. He learns of Castle's involvement and orders him killed; his wife suggests a hit on the family, the whole family.

That sets up a scene – convenient for killers who like the one-stop shopping approach to their assignments – where Castle is enjoying his retirement at a family reunion (yes, with his whole family) in Puerto Rico. It must save on mileage reimbursements.

After his family is gunned

down, Castle himself is shot up, lit on fire and blown up. He miraculously survives, however, and is nurtured back to health by a man reputed to be a witch doctor.

In the comic book series, Castle and his wife and child are picnicking in Central Park when two rival drug gangs get into a shootout. The wife and child are among the innocents killed, and thus the Punisher is born. He started a one-man war against drugs and the mob, and justified his violence because the police department seemed ineffective in stopping the growing threat. It's unclear why France and Hensleigh didn't take that approach – maybe the thought of seeing just one's wife and child gunned down isn't tragic or horrifying enough anymore.

The remainder of the movie follows Castle as he makes preparations to wage his war against the mobster, Howard Saint (John Travolta) and all his minions.

It's loosely based on stories written by Garth Ennis, in his attempt to bring the character out of the relative limbo in which he had languished during the late 1990s. The best parts of the movie contain elements of that work, including the three characters that inhabit the gloomy boarding house to which that Castle moves. They are Joan (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos), Spacker Dave (Ben Foster) and Mr. Bumpo, an obese man who is afraid of confrontations, but likes to make Joan smile by lip-synching opera.

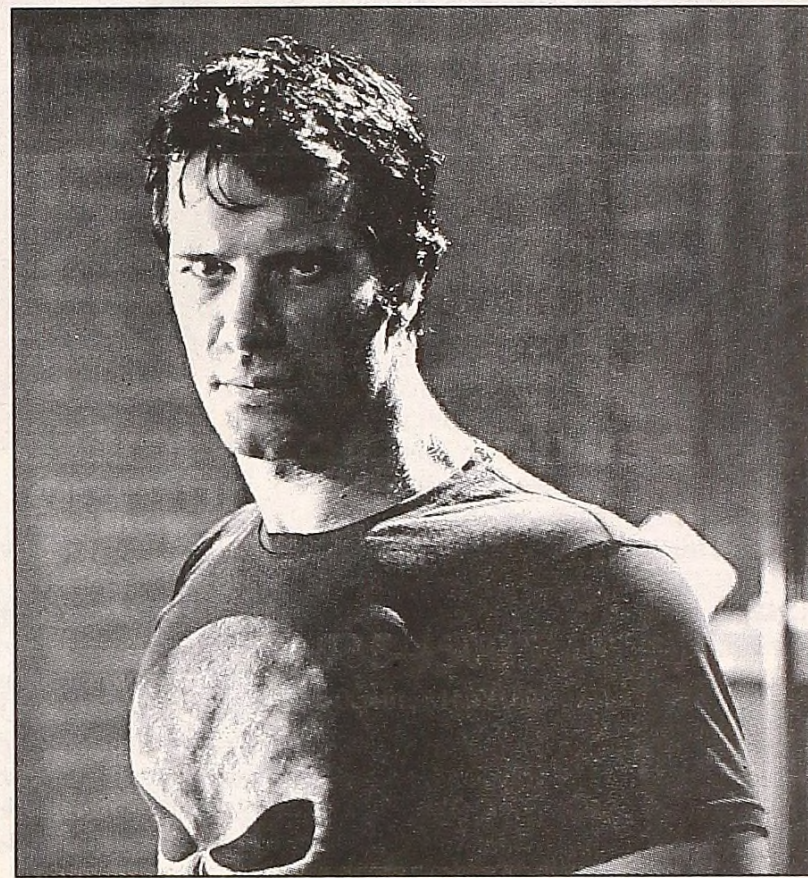
There are some good bits in the film. Jane is solid as The Punisher, as he tries to bring a little depth into a stereotype of revenge and remorse. Travolta's Saint shows the practice he's had at being a movie villain and Will Patton, who plays Quentin Glass, Saint's right-hand man, is menacing and evil.

The fight scenes came complete with sufficient explosions and the movie *Punisher* proved every bit as innovative in dealing death as his comic book counter-

part. Had the movie focused on those characters, it would have been more successful.

There were some ridiculous elements thrown in, though, like the scheme Castle concocts to turn Saint against Glass. It involves fake fire hydrants and unpaid parking tickets; to use a Marvel phrase: 'Nuff said.

A little editing here, or some script doctoring, would have made the film less punishing for those who watch it.



Thomas Jane

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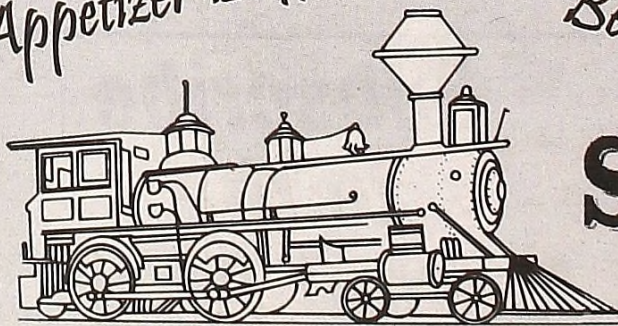
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Calendar

Family Fun Fair set at Field

Field School will host its first Family Fun Fair from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. tomorrow. There will be games, food, a silent auction, raffles and more. Tickets will be available in advance and at the door. Admission is free. For more information, call (734) 397-6331.

Sky is the Limit

Canton Township Leisure Services is putting on a display of all things airborne from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 24 in Heritage Park. A professional Frisbee demonstration team is scheduled to perform at 11:15 a.m. There will also be a boomerang demonstration stage and a kite workshop. Families are encouraged to bring their own kites to join in the fun. For more information, call leisure services at (734) 394-5460.

Dinner in a hurry

Canton Township Leisure Services is hosting a class for cooks on the go at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 27 at Summit on the Park. The class includes shopping tips, cooking shortcuts, and recipes. Fees are \$8 for members, \$10 for residents, and \$13 for nonresidents. For more information, call leisure services at (734) 394-5460.

Spring concert set

The Plymouth Community Chorus will present the annual spring concert at 8 p.m. April 24 and at 4 p.m. on April 25. Both shows are at Northville High School, on Six Mile Road between Sheldon and Beck roads. The concert, entitled Through the Years, culminates the 30th year of the chorus. Tickets are \$12 and available at sideways in downtown Plymouth, Evola Music on Haggerty Road in Canton, Edward's Caterer on East Dunlap in Northville or by calling (734) 455-4080.

Summer camps

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department will accept registrations for summer camp programs from April 17 through May 7. Camps are for children who have completed kindergarten but not

sixth grade. Registration is at the Plymouth Cultural Center during office hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Camp times will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekly, from June 21 through Aug. 9.

Book and author luncheon planned

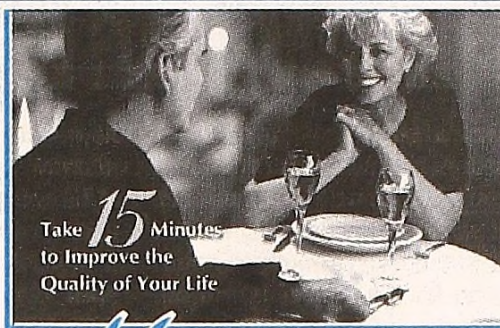
The Friends of the Library will host their 18th annual Book and Author Luncheon fundraiser at noon on Tuesday, May 12 at the Fox Hills Country Club. Chef, author and television personality Keith Farnie will be the guest of honor. Tickets are \$25 per person and available at the libraries in Canton Township, Northville, Novi and Plymouth. The fundraiser benefits all of those libraries.

Household Hazardous Waste Day set

City of Northville residents will have the opportunity to properly dispose of hazardous materials from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 1 at Ford Field on the corner of Farmington and Lyndon Roads in Livonia. The event, hosted by the City of Livonia, is free of charge to City of Northville residents. Proof of City of Northville residency is required, and driver's licenses will be checked. For more information, visit www.ci.livonia.mi.us or call (734) 466-2655.

Brass Ensemble performs

The Great Lakes Brass Ensemble will perform at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 25 at First Presbyterian Church of Northville. Musical selections will range from a Bach chorale to pieces from West Side Story. Tickets are \$14 for adults. Seniors more than 65 years of age, children age 12 and under, and students 18 years of age and under will be \$12. For more information, contact First Presbyterian at (248) 349-0911.



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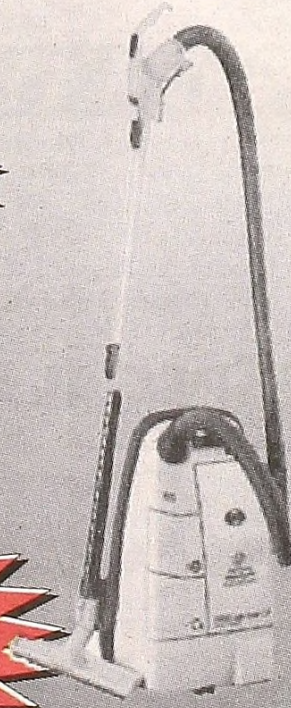
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Calendar

Florentine Experimentalists are topic

Art historian Michael Farrell will present a lecture on the Florentine Experimentalists beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28 in the Northville City Hall Council Chambers. This is the final event in the Under the Tuscan Sun lecture series sponsored by the Northville Arts Commission. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. For more information, call (248) 449-9950.

Teen financial workshop planned

The Inkster Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in conjunction with Comerica Bank will host a Teen Financial Literacy Workshop featuring celebrated financial consultant Gail Perry-Mason of the new book *Girl, Make Your Money Grow*, from 2 until 3:30 Saturday, May 8. The workshop will be at the YWCA of Western Wayne County, 26279 Michigan Ave. The event is free, but participants must register by calling (313) 438-0760.

Scholarship fundraiser planned

The Inkster Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will host a Scholarship Tea to honor high-achieving high school seniors in western Wayne County at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 1 at the Booker Dozier Recreation Center, 2025 Middlebelt Road. The event will feature light refreshments, live music by multi-talented woodwinds artist Tola Lewis and a reading and book signing by Pamela Osborne, author of the Christian romantic novel *Bread and Butter*. Tickets for the tea are \$15. For more information, call (313) 438-0760.

'Dingell Dialogue' scheduled

Congressman John D. Dingell (D-Dearborn) has scheduled his next "Dingell Dialogue" at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 24 at the Ypsilanti Township Hall.

Dinglell will discuss issues including jobs and outsourcing, Medicare protection, veterans' benefits, stopping Canadian waste, electricity blackout protection and many others. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their views on these topics with Dingell. The Ypsilanti Township Hall is located at 7200 South Huron River Dr. For more information, call (734) 481-1100.

Fundraiser tickets available

Tomorrow is the last day to purchase advance tickets for the Khamalaw H. White Foundation Roast. The fundraiser provides \$1,000 scholarships for college-bound Inkster students. This year, the subject of the roast is former chief of police and interim city manager Anderson Crutcher Young. The fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, May 1 at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club and Banquet Center in Westland. Tickets will be available at the door the day of the event. For more information, call Dr. Terrel LeCesne at (734) 722-3426.

Chamber schedules annual meeting

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce has scheduled the annual membership meeting and auction at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Holiday Inn Express 46194 N. I-94 Service Drive. The event will include a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner and a live auction. For more information, contact the Belleville Chamber of Commerce at (734) 697-7151.

Belleville Farmer's Market returns

The Belleville Farmer's Market will take place from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 1 in the city lot behind the Belleville Area Museum. The market will feature produce, flowers, landscaping vendors and garden crafts. Various special events will also be going on. For more information, call Bob Kennedy at (734) 699-2043 or the city clerk's office at (734) 697-9323.

Surplus federal food distribution set

Eligible Westland residents north of Michigan Avenue may pick up their food between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. today at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland. Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers must call their building manager for their day of distribution. This month, food will include instant potatoes, peaches, pudding and frozen ham. For more information, call (734) 595-0366.

50's Spring Hop set

The doors will open at 6 p.m. for the 50s Spring Hop on Friday, April 30 at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland. Dinner will be served at 6:30 and entertainment will follow at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and include admission, food and entertainment. A cash bar will be available. All proceeds will benefit the Westland Celebration Foundation. For more information, call (734) 729-4941.

Lions Club plans open house

Westland Lions Club members have planned an open house at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12 at the Beehive Restaurant, 626 Wayne Road, Westland, for men and women interested in joining. For more information, call Bill Acton at (734) 326-2607.

Annual city ice show set

The 29th annual City of Wayne Ice Show returns to the Wayne Community Center Ice Arena. The show, entitled "15 Minutes of Fame," is a celebration of one-hit wonders. Show times are at 7:30 p.m. on April 30 and May 1 and at 2:30 p.m. on May 2. Tickets are now on sale at the Wayne Community Center.

To publicize an event in this calendar, please fax the title, date, time, location and contact information along with a brief description of the event to (734) 729-1840, or e-mail to events@journalgroup.com.



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Officials oppose widening of Six Mile

Scott Spielman
Editor

In 2007, Six Mile Road is set to be widened by Wayne County into a five-lane thoroughfare, and Northville Township officials don't like it.

Township Supervisor Mark Abbo said a five-lane road is about the last thing officials want going through the center of their community.

"We want a three-lane road," he said.

The issue came up last Thursday at the board of trustees meeting. Clerk Sue Hillebrand said she had been in contact with Mike Darga, divisional design engineer for the Wayne County Department of Public Services about the plan, which would broaden the road from Haggerty Road west to Bradner.

"This board has been pretty strong and firm that we do not want Six Mile Road to be five lanes," she said.

Apparently, though, the county didn't get that message. In a letter to Hillebrand, Darga said the traffic count of the road warrants the expansion. The letter said that about 22,848 vehicles travel down the road every day; the threshold to widen a two-lane

“
Before we decide how wide to make
the road, we need to have some factual information.
We need to do our own study.
Don Weaver

road to a five-lane road is about 18,000 per day, he said. He requested a copy of any resolution against the expansion.

Don Weaver, director of public services for Northville Township, suggested the township do a traffic study on the busy roadway. He said he'd like to see something with stylish traffic-calming effects, such as a boulevard with regular breaks for turns.

"Before we decide how wide to make the road, we need to have some factual information," Weaver said. "We need to do our own study."

Township officials agreed that something needed to be done on the road, one of two direct access points from I-275 into the community. However, turning the road into a five lane one didn't make much sense because a few hundred yards west of the proposed expansion, Six Mile travels beneath a two-lane railroad

underpass.

"It's just going to exacerbate the problems we already have," Hillebrand said.

She and other township officials said they feared if the road were expanded, it would become even busier, effectively putting a highway through the center of the township, much like Ford Road has become in Canton Township.

"We know that, if they build it, people will come," Weaver said.

About two years ago, the county resurfaced Seven Mile Road, taking it from a four-lane road to a three-lane road. Darga said in his letter that was because only about 15,538 cars traveled that road every day. The proposed development along the road on the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital site, may cause that to change, however.

The board forwarded a resolution to the county about their objections to the five-lane plan as well as suggestions for what they would rather see along Six Mile Road. Weaver said it may dramatically change the scope of the project, or put it off altogether.

"The funding for the project is predicated on the condition of the road and the capacity of the road," he said. "If we reduce the load, we may fall off the list."

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Time travel

Bus tour of historic area sites will help fund museum

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Rare and exotic trees, sites of the Underground Railroad, and one of Henry Ford's pet projects will be only a few of the highlights of a tour of Hines Drive next week.

The bus tour will travel the Westland, Livonia, Plymouth, and Northville sections of Hines Drive and provide information about the historic significance of numerous sites in western Wayne County.

Wayne County Commissioner Lyn Bankes, who is spearheading a drive to create the Phoenix Mill Women's Museum, will host the tour and proceeds will be used to fund exhibits honoring women in the workplace.

The proposed museum would be located in a factory on the outskirts of Plymouth known as the Phoenix Mill, a plant that employed women almost exclusively for nearly two decades before World War II made women in the factories commonplace, according to Debbie Wanamaker, administrative assistant to Bankes.

Owned by Henry Ford, the mill was one of the first factories to pay women the same wages as men. Wanamaker said that the museum would honor women in



The old Phoenix Mill, now under use as a truck yard for Wayne County, is the proposed site of a museum honoring the contributions of women in the workplace.

the workplace. The museum will feature rotating exhibits on related topics that will predate the outbreak of World War II, when women across the nation responded to government pleas for assistance by entering the workforce to replace and support soldiers fighting overseas. Exhibits will continue toward the present. However, Wanamaker said that no specific exhibition plans have been determined yet.

Tour participants will have the opportunity to see the Phoenix Mill factory building, but the two-hour tour will include several other places of interest. Among other things, guests will have the opportunity to visit the Bennett Arboretum, which houses 325 rare trees, and visit the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center. In addition, participants will learn more about a wide array of topics,

ranging from the history of the mills, to Rouge River ties to the Underground Railroad, to the impact the creation of the first comfort stations had on the working class.

"We usually do one (tour) a month in the spring and the fall," said Wanamaker.

Tickets for the tour are \$15 per person, and payment is required in advance. While there were still seats available as of

press time, Wanamaker said that advanced reservations are strongly recommended, as the tours tend to sell out. For additional information, contact Wanamaker at (313) 224-0946.

The tour will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 26. Participants will board the bus in Northville in the public parking lot on Cady Street between Church and Center Streets, near Northville Downs.

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Canton Chiefs battle Ann Arbor Pioneer in 0-0 tie

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs battled the Ann Arbor Pioneers to a 0-0 tie in girls' varsity soccer Monday night in Canton.

"It was a good hard-fought battle by both teams," said Canton coach Don Smith. "It was just one of those nights where nothing went in on either side."

Although the Chiefs' offense out shot the Pioneers 15-12 and matched Ann Arbor's scoring chances, it was the outstanding performance by the defensive squad that kept the score even for Canton, Smith said.

Goaltender Brittany Cervi was excellent in net to keep the Pioneers scoreless, Molly Priebe, Ali Lindow, Laura Gibson, Stephanie Price and Megan Romer had solid

It was our first game back after the Easter break and we we're lagging a little bit. Hopefully we'll be back to normal towards the end of the week.

Canton coach Don Smith

games on defense, he said.

"It was our first game back after the Easter break and we were lagging a little bit," he said. "Hopefully we'll be back to normal toward the end of the week."

The team sits steady with a 4-0-1 overall record but has

a difficult road ahead. Canton will have to be on top of their game this week when they face some tough adversaries.

The Chiefs hosted Walled Lake Central last night but the results weren't available at press time for this edition. They will head to a tough Troy Athens field on Saturday and continue on the road when they visit a streaky Wayne Memorial Zebra team on Monday, April 26.

The schedule doesn't get any easier as they stay on the road, traveling for two more games. They head to Northville on April 28 and Saline on May 1 before they return to home-field advantage on May 3 against Walled Lake Western.

"We just take them one at a time," Smith said of the upcoming schedule.

Salem Rocks win Essexville tennis tournament

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Despite being short players for the Essexville-Garber tournament on Saturday, the Salem Rocks still pulled out the victory.

"With missing so many guys, I'm pleased with the outcome," said Salem Coach Bill Nelson.

He said he had to do some roster overhauling in order to triumph and it worked. Salem won the eight-team tournament with 16 points, followed by Saginaw Nouvel and Troy Athens who tied for second.

Salem's number one singles player, Mike Ware, scored big to

With missing so many guys, I'm pleased with the outcome.

Salem Coach Bill Nelson

win his flight and take a first place for the team. Chris Treadwell had to step up to number two singles from the number three spot. He held his own and captured a first place at the position.

Kushal Mistry took home second at the number four spot.

Things were a little confusing in the doubles competition. Salem was without their entire number one team. Craig Lytle is out due to illness while foreign exchange student Roma Buffa was traveling. Nelson moved the number-three team of John Schellhase and Don Geick to the top spot

where they won on the consolation side of the tournament.

At number two doubles, Alex Poe and David Jung placed fifth to score a point for the Rocks. Blake Foster and Neil Bakshi were moved from the number four doubles to number three, where they won the competition outright.

Nelson brought up Cam Loftus and Mit Shah from the junior varsity team to fill in at the number four spot. There, the two newcomers won in the consolation bracket.

Canton was supposed to start their regular season on Friday against Livonia Franklin.

However, Walled Lake Western showed up on Canton's doorstep Monday night looking to start the season early - Canton didn't have them on their schedule until May 14, according to Nelson. The match was cancelled and was rescheduled to take place at 4:00 p.m. today.

Despite the mix-up, Nelson said he feels good about his team and is anxious to get the season going.

"Once the season starts it gets pretty busy," he said. "This week it starts full throttle. I feel confident, though. I'm optimistic we will do well - we're going to be pretty tough."

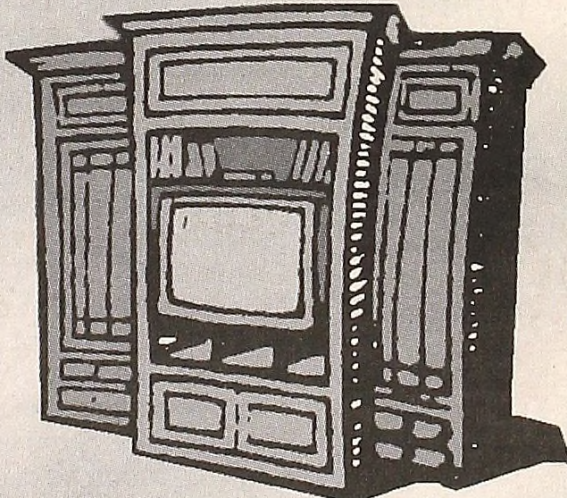


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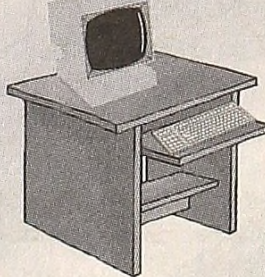


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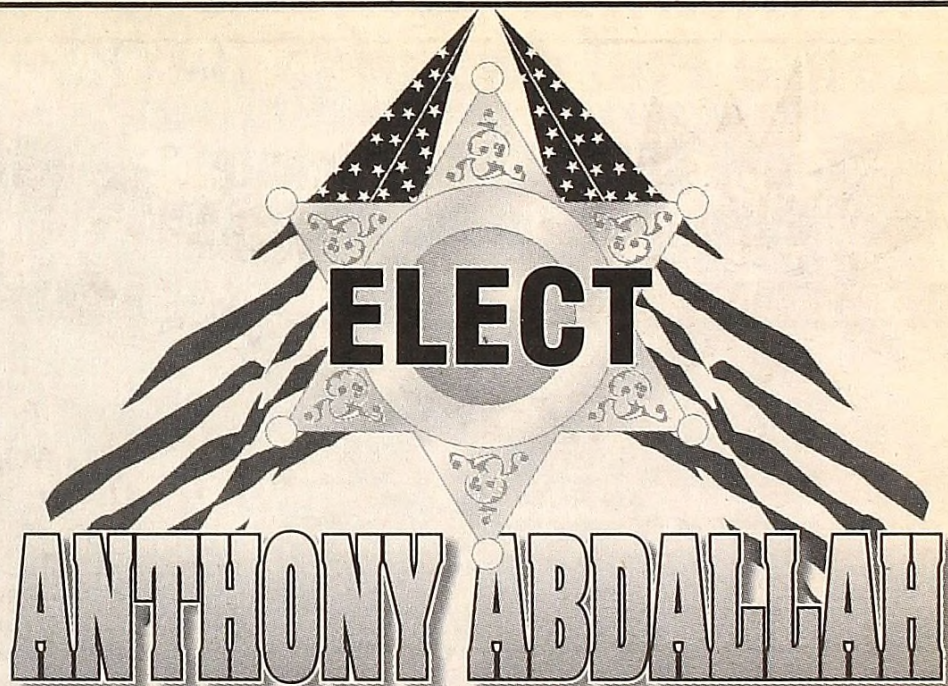


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Northville offers co-ed kickball

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The pitch is right down the middle; the batter belts the ball down the third base-line but is thrown out at first as the ball hits him in the legs.

This isn't baseball or softball - although it would add a certain amount of excitement to the game if you could throw the ball at the runner.

This is the nostalgic game of schoolyard kickball - a game long forgotten by those who walked off the elementary school playground years ago. However, thanks to the Northville Parks & Recreation, adults can take a trip back in time to their good old days of co-ed kickball.

On Fridays, beginning May 14, the Northville Parks & Recreation will host an adult co-ed kickball.

Games will be played in the evenings at 6:30, 7:35, 8:40 and 9:45 at Community Park, located on Beck Road between Five and Six Mile roads. Playoffs will take place on July 9. The park is lighted and offers paved parking and restrooms.

How did such a concept get started?

Joe Barberio, athletics supervisor for the Northville Parks & Recreation, said he was looking for a basketball director when he came across Charlie Gabbear, who had an older son that played for a kickball league in Oak Park. The two of them decided they should start a similar program in Northville. So instead of finding someone for the basketball program, Barberio hired a kickball coordinator.

With the start of the season approaching quickly, the program only has two registered teams, he said.

"It's still new," he said. "It may take a little longer for it to catch on."

He said that the season is still scheduled to start Friday, May 14 and they are still accepting team registration. Forms are available in the Northville Parks & Recreation office.

The team entry fee is \$240 per team (\$48 returned if no forfeits) but doesn't include the \$12 additional umpire fee. Other added fees include an \$18 non-resident fee.

For more information, call (248) 449-9947.

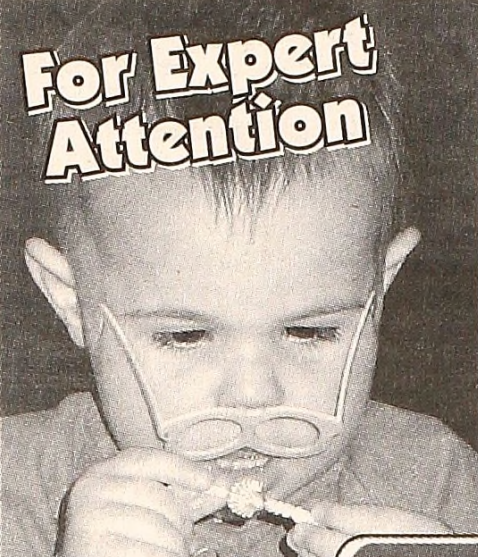
So pull up the tube socks and tighten the laces on the old Converse hi-tops. But, no matter how bad you want to, don't try to squeeze into those old 80's style gym shorts. Just because kickball is nostalgic doesn't mean you should relive your childhood and visually punish the spectators.

Northville Parks & Recreation will also host their third annual Midwest Stephen Race Badminton tournament starting Friday, May 7 through Sunday, May 9 at the Recreation Center at Hillside. Stephen Race was a player who was instrumental in building badminton popularity in the Midwest.

Last year 110 players participated from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and Indiana. They also had players from Toronto, Windsor and Boston. They are expecting 120 participants for the 2004 tournament including new entries from Florida. The 2000 Olympic Gold Medal Winner, Tony Gunawan, will also be among this year's participants.

Interested participants have until April 30 to register for singles or doubles competition. The cost is \$20 for the first event and \$10 for each additional event. There is a late fee after of \$5 after April 30.

The tournament is open to the public with no admission charge. For more information on participation contact Joe Barberio at (248) 449-9947.



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Sport events

Belleville

The Belleville softball squad hosts the Romulus Eagles in a doubleheader at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22.

Belleville soccer is home against Redford Union at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22.

The track teams will race against Edsel Ford with the boys at home and the girls traveling to Dearborn at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 22.

Tigers' baseball hits the diamond against the Monroe Trojans at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23 in Belleville.

The tennis team faces Thurston at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23 with home court advantage.

Canton

The Chiefs' track teams take off against the Northville Mustangs at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 22.

Scott Dickey and the Canton Chief baseball team will take on rival Northville at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23 in Canton.

Boys' tennis will host the Canton Varsity Tournament starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 24.

Northville

Mustang softball face off against the Canton Chiefs at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23 in Northville.

The Northville tennis team will gain home field advantage against the Churchill Chargers at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23.

The Northville Mustang's varsity baseball will host the Churchill Chargers at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26.

Ron Meteyer will lead his girl's varsity soccer squad against Westland John Glenn at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26 in Northville.

Plymouth

Plymouth High School's baseball club will

host Plymouth Christian Academy at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23.

The Wildcat tennis team will take on Northville at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26 at Plymouth High School.

The Plymouth softball crew will play Garden City at home at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26.

Wildcat soccer hosts Ann Arbor Gabriel Richaud at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26.

Romulus

The Romulus Eagles baseball and softball teams will fly against Dearborn Heights Robichaud at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26 in Romulus.

Angela Siggia will lead her girls' varsity soccer team against Lincoln Park at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26 at home.

Salem

Salem tennis hosts Livonia Franklin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23.

The Rocks baseball club will roll against the Novi Wildcats in a doubleheader at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 24 at Salem High School.

Salem softball hosts Farmington in a doubleheader starting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 24.

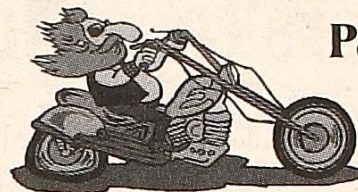
Salem Varsity soccer will be home against the Livonia Franklin Patriots at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26.

Wayne

Zebra Baseball hosts Garden City in a doubleheader starting at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 24.

Head coach Larry Brenner will lead his soccer teams against a tough Canton Chief squad at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26.

Wayne's softball faces the Salem Rocks at Wayne Memorial at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23.



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Experience in Property Management is required (min. two years)

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59. Auctions

MR. STOR-IT 5235 Merriman Road Westland, MI 48186 734-721-4670 **AUCTION DATE** MAY 22, 2004, 11 am. Sealed Bids: No Checks.

Unit 12- Earlene Keith= Household Furniture
Unit 14- Douglas Harnos= Harley-Davidson cycle, boxes, bags, misc.

Unit 21- David Austin= Household furniture, boxes.

Unit 25- Patrick Spangler= Appliances, boxes, toys.

Unit 28- Mark Kean= household misc, boxes, toolboxes.

Unit 217- Gerold Offerman= tools, boxes, trolling motor.

Unit 238- Quartice Jackson= baby items, washer.
Unit 241- Jimmie Carroll= furniture, washer, boxes.
Unit 250- Robert Clifton= fridge, couch.
Unit 402- Roy Jason III= Financial Records.
Unit 431- Toarmina's Pizza= Soft-Serve ice cream machine.
Unit 549- Galen Porter= Hide-A-Bed, furniture, household goods, boxes.

AUTO AUCTION J & T Crova Towing 36573 Grant St. Romulus, MI 48174 734-941-0221 **APRIL 28th, 2004 9:00 AM**

1986 Ford 2FABP78FXJX217795 St-Wagon- 04-1846
1993 Ford 1FALP54P5PA280988 4 Door-04-1973
1995 Buick Skylark 1G4NV55M6SC409794 4 Door- 04-2088
1981 Buick 1G4AJ47A9BH137770 2 Door- 04-2228
1988 Chevrolet 1GBEG25Z3J7145292 St-Wagon- 04-2376
1990 Ford Econo 1FDEE14N5LHA79203

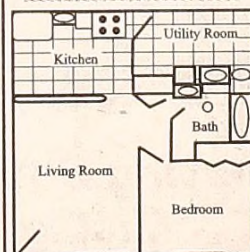
61. Misc. Items

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Van- 04-2487
1968 Chevrolet S-Truck CE148F182714 04-2549
1989 Dodge Dynasty 1B3BC5632KD445917 4 Door- 04-2617
1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass 2G3AM51R9K2410123 4 Door- 04-2617
1991 Lincoln 1LNCM9840MY655047 4 Door- 04-2623

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On April 27, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct

public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1988 Mercury Sable 4 Door- Blue
1MEBM50U4JG629751 1987 Mercury Marquis 4 Door- Gray
2MEBM75FXHX697370 1984 Volkswagen Rabbit 4 Door- White
1VWEB0178EV028938

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. at Westland Car Care,

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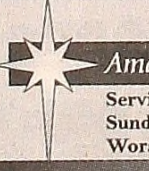
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734-367-3029



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1992 Ford Taurus
St-wagon- Blue
1FACP55U3NG213515
1990 GEO Tracker
2 Door- White
2CNBJ18U7L6232976
1995 Toyota Camry
4 Door- Green
4T1SK12E9SU485795
1987 Nissan Stanza
4 Door- Red
JN1HT211XHT040905
1984 GMC Suburban
SW- Blue-Gray
1G5GC26J5EF519218
1987 Ford Bronco
SW- Blue
1FMCU14T1HUA25548
1990 Dodge Caravan
SW- Gray
1B4FK44R5LX320962
1990 Chevy Lumina
St-Wagon- Blue
1GNCU06D6LT103428
1991 Pontiac Grand Am
4 Door- White
1G2WT54T8MF219590

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

AUTO AUCTION
Howard's Towing & Collision
35830 Van Born Road
Wayne, MI 48184
734-326-1114
April 27, 2004
Auction 1:00 p.m.

1995 Chevrolet
1GCEC14Z5S2113792
1988 Chevrolet
1GNCT18R9J0120627
1992 Chevrolet
2G1WL14T7N9143948
1987 Chevrolet
1GCEG25K3H7193108
1994 Dodge
1B4GH54R6RX210178
1992 Dodge
1B4GH44R8NX136797
1994 Dodge
1B3ED46T5RF198492
1990 Ford
1FACP41A1LF205969
1988 Ford
2FTDF15Y7GCA94269
1988 Ford
1FABP52U8JG190534
1989 Ford
1FTDF15Y9KLA32998
1984 Ford
1FABP44FOEZ116768
1989 Mercury
3MABM1158KR609949
1992 Mercury
1MECM5543NG638878
1995 Mercury
4M2DV11W5SDJ62529
1984 Mercury
2MEBP95F2EX648596
1994 Plymouth
3P3AA46K1RT263583
734-941-0221

AUTO AUCTION
J & M Towing
8964 Inkster rd.
Romulus, MI 48174
734-946-4101
APRIL 28, 2004
At 11:00 am.

1993 Chevrolet
1G1LT53T9PY118611
4 Door- 04-1833
1991 Buick
1G4NV54U1MM239004
4 Door- 04-1988
1988 Dodge
1B7FD04Y5JS623862
Pickup- 04-2008
1988 Oldsmobile Toronado
1G3EZ11C8JU314855
2 Door- 04-2015
1987 Mercury
2MEBM79F8HX643270
4 Door- 04-2167
1985 Plymouth
1P3BB26P8FX637608
4 Door- 04-2514
1991 Chevrolet
1G1LT53G7MY102700
4 Door- 04-2541
1987 Chevrolet Van
1GBEG25K8H7167995
St-Wagon- 04-2622
1988 Ford
1FTBR10A0JUD94042
Pickup- 04-2680
1980 Oldsmobile
3X69RAM116082
4 Door- 04-2836
1987 Ford Ranger
1FTBR10A6HUD02989
Pickup- 04-2846
1985 Mercury
2MEBP95F6FX715170
4 Door- 04-A-217
1989 Mercury
1MEBM55U1KA601760
ST-Wagon- 04-A-298

Westland-
Mini-Storage will be holding an Auction for the following units on April 24, 2004 at 11:00 am.

1600 S. Newburgh Road
Westland, MI
734-729-1710
Unit 300- Gwendolyn Hill= T.V, Strollers, Many boxed kids walker, table, clothes, shelving.
Unit 419- Darlene Mathisen= Steamer chest, multiple boxes, speakers.
Unit 415- Jay D. Snyder= Floor guys wood flooring, carpet, other flooring products.
Unit 111- Kimberly Chmiel= Fishing, life jackets, boxes Misc clothes, hunting, Camo kids games.
Unit 625- Barbara Johnson= kids misc. furniture, Cds, T.V., Baby bed, misc boxes.
Unit 735- Mary Steele= Couch, furniture, glass tops, boxes, books, cds, and kids odds and ends.

60. Misc. Sales

ESTATE SALE
April 24 to 25th
4244 Gloria
Wayne, MI
9am-6pm.

RUMMAGE SALE
First United
Methodist Church
of Dearborn. 22142
Garrison St., at
Mason, Dearborn.
April 22-24. Thursday
7-9pm, Friday 4-9pm,
and Saturday 9am-noon.
Toys, games, electronics,
linens, clothing, books,
Housewares and more.

**SEMI-ANNUAL
RUMMAGE SALE.**
St. Paul's Church
24158 Goddard (just
west of Telegraph)
Taylor, MI, 48180
April 29, 9-5 p.m.
April 30, 9-4 p.m.
May 1, 9-11 a.m.
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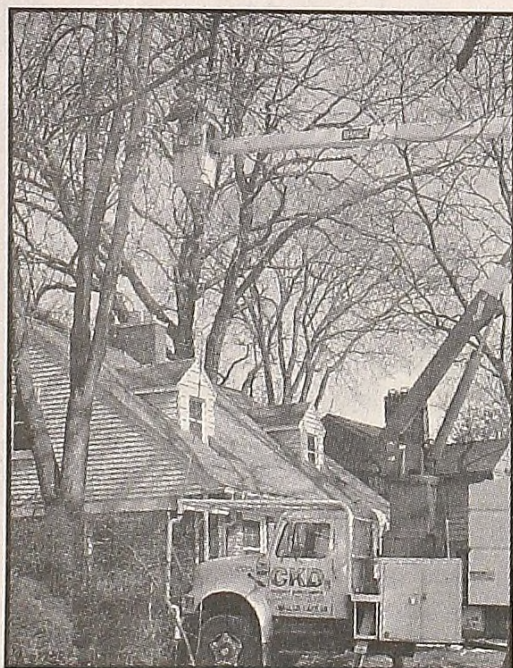
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